

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In this Amendment, claims 4, 12, 16, 18 and 20-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1, 5-7, 17 and 19 remain pending.

Claim 1 is independent.

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is rendered moot.

In the Office Action, Examiner makes the following prior art rejections:

- rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,095) in view of Norris (U.S. Patent No. 4,847,632);
- rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al in view of Norris, and further in view of Ishikawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,838,534);
- rejects claims 4, 18, 20, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al in view of Yamamoto et al (JP 2003002508);
- rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al in view of Yamamoto et al, and further in view of Cho (U.S. Patent No. 5,974,283);

- rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al in view of Yamamoto et al, and Nose et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,860); and
- rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takashima et al. in view of Yamamoto et al., and further in view of Ishikawa et al.

The rejections of claims 4, 12, 16, 18 and 20-23 are rendered moot. With respect to claims 1, 5-7, 17 and 19, Applicants respectfully traverse. In rejecting claim 1, Examiner admits that Takashima et al does not teach or suggest the biasing member and does not teach or suggest the side wall member arranged to receive a biasing force and relies upon Norris to disclose these features.

Norris discloses:

Upon removal of all the film units 18 from the bin door 60, a user merely forces the bin door 60 towards the housing assembly 14 thereby collapsing the linkage assembly 62 and the bin door 60. The spring 64 will serve to automatically return the linkage assembly 62 to its collapsed condition after, of course, the bin door 60 passes the overcenter condition. *Emphasis added; c.5, l.65 – c.6, l.2.*

The overcenter condition is shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4. *Norris, c.5, ll.14-18.* Thus, in Norris, the user needs to force the in door 60 to move the bin door 60 and the tray link 68 from the laid flat state to the upright state (collapsed condition).

On the contrary, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the present disclosure, the side wall member 71 receives a biasing force from the biasing member 72 so as to rotate from the laid flat state to the upright state. When the side wall is in the laid flat state due to the recording medium placed on the recording medium placement surface 35a, upon removal of the recording medium, the side wall member 71 rotates due to the biasing force of the biasing member 72 to become upright, with the lower end surface of the side wall member 71 abutting on the recording medium placement surface 35a. Consequently, the sidewall member automatically moves from the laid flat state to the upright state upon removal of the recording medium. *Specification, p.17, l.21 – p.18, l.9; p.19, ll.21-26.*

These features are reflected in claim 1 which is amended to recite “wherein the side wall member is rotatably supported to rotate around a rotational axle extending in a horizontal direction perpendicular to the recording medium discharge direction”, “wherein the side wall member is arranged to receive a biasing force by the biasing member so as to rotate from the laid flat state to the upright state”, and “the side wall member is also configured to move to the upright state with a lower end surface of the side wall member abutting on the recording medium placement surface due to the biasing force by the biasing member when the recording medium placed on the recording medium placement surface has been removed in the laid flat state of the side wall member.”

It is seen that one cannot arrive at the invention of claim 1 by modifying the side wall member disclosed in Takashima et al as taught by Norris. For at least this reason, claim 1 is distinguishable over the combination of Takashima et al and Norris. None of Ishikawa et al, Yamamoto et al, Cho and Nose et al are relied upon to correct the deficiencies of Takashima et al and Norris. Therefore, independent claim 1 is also distinguishable over any combination of Takashima et al, Norris, Ishikawa et al, Yamamoto et al, Cho, and Nose et al. By virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 1 as well as on their own, dependent claims 5-7, 17 and 19 are distinguishable over any combination of Takashima et al, Norris, Ishikawa et al, Yamamoto et al, Cho, and Nose et al. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims based on applied references Takashima et al, Norris, Ishikawa et al, Yamamoto et al, Cho, and Nose et al be withdrawn.


All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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